

LINK

The Newsletter of the Great Lakes Regional
Pollution Prevention Roundtable (GLRPPR)



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ILLINOIS ORGANIZATIONS RECEIVE AWARDS FOR ACHIEVEMENTS IN ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Twenty five Illinois companies and organizations have been honored for their significant achievements in protecting the environment and boosting the economy. Governor's Pollution Prevention Awards and the Illinois Sustainable Technology Awards were presented recently during a luncheon. This is the 22nd consecutive year the awards were presented by the Illinois Sustainable Technology Center, a division of the University of Illinois.

The Pollution Prevention (P2) projects recognized through the Governor's Pollution Prevention Awards program produced millions of dollars in savings in material and disposal costs. Those organizations that have won in past years and are continuing their environmental efforts are awarded a Continuous Improvement Award. The award winners prevented hundreds of tons of waste materials from being released into the environment and saved millions of gallons of wastewater from being sent to treatment facilities. The Illinois Sustainable Technology Award recognizes a novel technology or process that leads to significant waste reduction, waste elimination, or environmental impact.

The 2008 award winners are listed below. Information on the Governor's Pollution Prevention Awards program and technical assistance on pollution prevention and energy efficiency are available from the Illinois Sustainable Technology Center, One Hazelwood Drive, Champaign, IL 61820, phone 217-333-8940, <http://www.istc.illinois.edu/>.

2008 Governor's Pollution Prevention Award winners:

- **Abbott** in North Chicago—Continuous Improvement
- **Ball Corporation** in Elgin – 1st time winner
- **Baxter Healthcare** in Round Lake – Continuous Improvement
- **Cadbury Adams** in Rockford – Continuous Improvement
- **Carlisle Syntech Inc.** in Greenville – 1st time winner
- **Caterpillar Logistics** in Morton – Continuous Improvement
- **Caterpillar Engine Center** in Mossville – Continuous Improvement
- **Christy Weber Landscapes** in Chicago – 1st time winner
- **Cintas Corporation** in Bedford Park – 1st time winner
- **Digital Hub** in Chicago – 1st time winner
- **Electro-motive Diesel, Inc.** in LaGrange – Continuous Improvement

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- **Frigel North America** in Lake Zurich – 1st time winner
- **Hitachi Metals Automotive Components** in Effingham – Continuous Improvement
- **Illinois Correctional Industries** in Menard – 1st time winner
- **Kent H. Landsberg Company** in Lombard – 1st time winner
- **Nalco Company** in Chicago – Continuous Improvement
- **National Manufacturing** in Rock Falls – Continuous Improvement & Sustainable Technology Award
- **NOW Foods** in Bloomingdale – 1st time winner
- **O'Hare Modernization Program** in Chicago – 1st time winner
- **Plum Grove Printers** in Hoffman Estates – 1st time winner
- **Pontiac Township High School** in Pontiac – Continuous Improvement
- **PortionPac Chemical Corp.** in Chicago – Continuous Improvement
- **Richelieu Foods** in Elk Grove – 1st time winner
- **Wilbur Wright College** in Chicago – 1st time winner
- **ZF Sales & Service** in Vernon Hills – Continuous Improvement

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MAJOR ANNOUNCEMENT!!

To better serve our members we will begin posting your information on the GLRPPR Blog instead of the LINK. The GLRPPR Blog can be found at <http://www.glrppr.org/blog>. This will give more immediacy to your information.

MnTAP FOCUSES P2 EFFORTS ON MEDICAL DEVICE MANUFACTURING

Minnesota is a leader in medical device technology, ranking first or second in the nation as the leading location for the medical devices industry. It headquarters a strong cluster of medical technology corporations including 3M, Boston Scientific, Medtronic, and St. Jude Medical.

Medical device manufacturers use a variety of materials and chemicals in the development, production, cleaning, sterilization, and shipment of their products. Some of the materials are used in large quantities providing opportunities for resource efficiency. Chemicals, such as chlorinated solvents and ethylene oxide, are highly toxic and provide opportunities for toxicity reduction. This industry is highly regulated by FDA, but new green initiatives if proposed and enacted by the European Union present opportunities for pollution prevention.

Therefore, MnTAP has been targeting medical device manufacturers to educate them about source reduction options and assist with implementation of new technologies. One of the recent steps MnTAP has taken to better understand the needs and waste issues of the industry included holding a focus group in September. Nine attendees representing eight companies attended the focus group and were asked to respond to a set of questions designed to help MnTAP direct its pollution prevention education and technical assistance efforts.

The information gleaned from the participants will be used to provide technical assistance to and encourage implementation of technologies for medical device manufacturers. Primary issues the attendees identified include:

- Sterilization alternatives to Ethylene Oxide
- How to design better, more sustainable products
- How to increase energy efficiency in clean rooms
- The availability of less harsh cleaning chemicals and processes
- Options for internal and external packaging waste reduction

From the results and additional research, MnTAP will move forward with addressing waste issues and potential

solutions. Future work may include technology demonstrations, pilot projects, intern projects, and educational materials, all of which will be aimed at solving waste issues and reducing pollution from medical device manufacturers.

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ISTC RECEIVED PRESTIGIOUS AWARD

The Illinois Sustainable Technology Center (ISTC), a division of the Institute of Natural Resource Sustainability on the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, recently was presented the Most Valuable Pollution Prevention (MVP2) award, given by the National Pollution Prevention Roundtable (NPPR), in Washington, D.C. The ISTC won for its Cutting Edge Partnership program. This program was developed to help industries extend the life of their metal working fluids (MWF) to save money and help the environment. The program also helped companies save energy and retain jobs in the United States. The Cutting Edge Partnership focuses on bringing together a variety of expertise in machining, formulations, recycling, product management, environmental health, and safety to help companies address the uncertainties in adopting new technologies. The Cutting Edge Partnership provides an innovative method to help companies focus on reducing these uncertainties and proving the anticipated benefits of the technologies being considered.

In this program:

- Technical assistance was driven by individual facility need. The partnership provided a forum through which needs of end-users were addressed through collaborations with chemical suppliers and vendors, consultants, and academia.
- Integrated multiple pathway approaches were used as the framework to reduce the environmental footprint of MWF. A core group of chemical suppliers, vendors, and consultants who subscribe to this philosophy were assembled. Potential solutions, identified in response to the issues raised by the manufacturers, were screened based on the principles of Green Engineering.
- Technology testing was carried out at mentor sites.
- Following a successful technology implementation, other industry participants were allowed access to mentor sites to witness first-hand details of project conception, implementation, and applicability.

A chief goal of this project is to develop systems that companies can share with other businesses. A primary barrier to implementation of innovative pollution prevention (P2) technologies is a lack of technical resources to conduct a sufficient pilot test of the technology to overcome issues of complexity and compatibility. The project provides the mentoring company a successful track record of a program to a company interested in beginning such a process. The program has been successful in attracting a variety of companies. ISTC was formerly known as the Waste Management and Research Center.

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FOOD PROCESSING TEAM SIGNIFICANTLY REDUCES WATER USE

Northern Star Company, a subsidiary of Michael Foods Inc., is a potato processing facility in Minneapolis, Minnesota. The facility processes refrigerated potato products 24 hours per day, seven days per week, for retail and food service clients.

Food processing facilities generally use large quantities of water in their production processes. At Northern Star large volumes of water are needed to wash, peel, cook, and move potatoes through the plant. Additional water is used to sanitize equipment, to clean the facility, and for employee hand washing to meet state and federal sanitation requirements. In August 2006, an internal water assessment determined that the facility used 550,000 gallons of water per day and would be facing significant fees if water use and discharge levels were not reduced.

Northern Star began addressing water issues immediately and formed a water conservation team with MnTAP's help in January 2007. This team was formed to address all aspects of water usage. The team, comprised of representatives from all areas of the company including corporate management and line workers, met on a monthly basis to discuss areas of improvement, prioritize projects, and develop an implementation plan. Each team member was given a water reduction kit: a bucket, stopwatch, and blue slips. Blue slips were also made available to all employees. An employee reported a water leak/overuse location on the blue slip and handed it to a water conservation team member. The team members placed a two gallon bucket under the reported leak and used the stopwatch to record the time it took to fill the bucket. This data was used to calculate gallons of water lost per minute and to prioritize repairs.

In less than one year, the team implemented 47 projects throughout the Minneapolis facility. Not all projects required capital investments; many were maintenance or employee awareness related. For example, the top three water saving projects the team implemented include:

- Installing larger recycled water pumps, which increased the volume and pressure of recycled water.
- Installing auto level controls, which allow only the required amount of water to be added to tanks to keep them full.
- Measuring water use and waste, which was done by company employees.

Seven months after the water reduction team formed, it has been successful in avoiding a significant fee of \$416,000. If Northern Star is able to maintain the reduction in water usage, water costs will also be reduced. Currently, daily water use has been reduced by an average of 125,000 gallons per day.

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WRIGHT CHOSEN AS 'GREEN' INSTITUTE



Homeowners, residents, and small business owners will soon be able to turn to Wright College for information, classes, and workshops on reducing their energy costs and consumption because of a recently awarded grant.

The Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity chose Wright as the Chicago-area location for a Sustainability Institute because of the cutting-edge lead Wright has taken among community colleges on renewable energy and energy efficiency.

"This establishes Wright as the leader in energy efficiency training in Chicago," said Victoria Cooper, Wright's director of environmental technology. Wright has installed solar panels to power part of the campus and created

a Building Energy Technologies curriculum to teach energy efficient construction.

When the institute opens in the fall, seminars and classes will be offered to teach residents, homeowners, and small businesses about energy efficiency. Another goal of the center will be developing energy audit training for architects, engineers, consultants, and energy business professionals across the network colleges. Also, an office at the college will provide a library of sustainability documents available to the community.

Three other Illinois community colleges were also selected as Sustainability Institutes – Kankakee Community College, Heartland Community College in Normal, and Lewis and Clark Community College in Godfrey, which is near St. Louis.

For more information, call Dr. Cooper at 773-481-8979.

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GRANTS SUPPORT MnTAP'S WORK IN ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND POLLUTION PREVENTION

MnTAP was recently awarded three grants to support energy efficiency and pollution prevention work. The total amount awarded, over \$250,000, will help MnTAP develop relationships with Minnesota's utility providers, the Minnesota Army National Guard, and a variety of manufacturers. Each grant is detailed below.

Researching Energy Conservation Potential. MnTAP will conduct industrial market sector analysis for Minnesota utility service areas. The analysis will examine industrial sectors and their energy use, and will provide recommendations for energy efficiency and cost-saving opportunities. Ultimately, this knowledge will help utility providers and businesses move toward energy savings goals set by Minnesota's Next Generation Act of 2007. Minnesota Department of Commerce: \$200,000. Project period: 10/1/08 – 9/30/10.

Pollution Prevention Opportunity Assessments. MnTAP will update the Minnesota Army National Guard's pollution prevention plans by updating five existing and creating five new pollution prevention opportunity assessments. Additionally, MnTAP will review the Guard's initiatives in energy efficiency, renewable energy, and water conservation and will summarize opportunities for improvement. Minnesota Army National Guard: \$50,000. Project period: 10/1/08 – 9/30/09.

Pollution Prevention and Energy Efficiency for Minnesota Metal Fabrication and Machining Sector. MnTAP will work with Minnesota's metal fabrication industry to identify, implement, and document pollution prevention and energy efficiency opportunities to reduce waste at the source and reduce energy costs. United States Environmental Protection Agency – Region V: \$33,137. Project period: 10/1/08 – 3/31/10.

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SGP PARTNERSHIP REGISTRY

The Sustainable Green Printing Partnership (SGP Partnership), a collaborative effort founded by the Flexographic Technical Association (FTA), Printing Industries of America/Graphic Arts Technical Foundation (PIA/GATF), and Specialty Graphic Imaging Association (SGIA), officially opened the application process on August 28, 2008 for printers to become registered SGP Printers. Registered printers will be listed on a registry for print buyers and customers to use when searching for sustainable green printers.

Printing facilities are invited to complete and submit a self-assessment application accompanied by supporting documentation that demonstrates compliance with all applicable regulatory requirements as well as meeting

the established criteria. The criteria for being listed on the SGP registry as a green and sustainable printer, announced and beta-tested earlier this year are listed on the SGP Partnership registry Web site.

The SGP Partnership's definition of sustainability encompasses more than just environmental issues. Corporate social responsibility is another major component. As a result, the criteria are based on all three key elements of sustainability—people, planet, and profits.

For more information on criteria or the application process, visit www.sgppartnership.org.

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ENERGY EFFICIENT SCHOOLS AND STUDENTS TOPIC HUB

The Great Lakes Regional Pollution Prevention Roundtable (GLRPPR) has developed a Topic Hub on [Energy Efficient Schools and Students](#) that describes energy efficient practices and research available to schools and introduces resources that support changes in operations, maintenance, and behavior. Numerous ways exist to reduce escalating energy costs and this Topic Hub assembles guidelines and comprehensive energy programs, identifies educational efforts and case studies, and provides examples of best practices for schools. A "Curricula" section identifies energy related instructional materials and standards-linked K-12 curricula for classrooms.

New resources are continuously added to the Hub's "Complete List of Links." If you would like to suggest links for the hub or have other comments, please contact [Joy Scrogum](#).

See the [main Topic Hub menu on the GLRPPR web site](#) for other Hubs maintained by GLRPPR and other Pollution Prevention Resource Exchange (P2Rx) centers.

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OHIO GREEN FLEETS PROGRAM

The Ohio Green Fleets program is designed to significantly reduce the emissions and fuel use of business and government vehicle fleets. The program is a voluntary certification process to which Ohio Fleet Managers apply. This new program is composed of three components: helping fleet managers develop Green Fleet policies tailored to their specific needs, hands on assistance in implementing the policies, and the development of a statewide rating system to recognize those fleets that have made measurable environmental progress. Ohio Green Fleets is presented in collaboration with the Ohio Energy Office, Earth Day coalition, and several local and regional organizations.

Fuels and technologies highlighted in the Ohio Green Fleets Program offer great benefits including air quality improvements, attainment of federal air quality standards, reductions in tax expenditures, increased energy security, and benefits to Ohio's economy. As petroleum prices continue to rise, cleaner, domestic fuel options also fit into a more cost-effective business strategy. People in government, the private sector, policy makers, and the general public are hearing much more today about alternative fuels. They are receptive to these messages but are unsure about details of implementation. The development of a uniform statewide recognition system will make it easy to determine who has become a leader in green technology use for transportation energy.

The program will provide help to at least 20 businesses and government fleet operators to reduce emissions and improve the environmental performance of their vehicles. The program will target five urban areas not meeting federal clean air standards. Components include seminars, small-group workshops, publications, technical assistance, support efforts to secure outside funding, and a statewide award and recognition program.

The Green Fleets Program held a series of kick-off events throughout Ohio during August with both U.S. EPA and Ohio EPA representatives. Various collaborators and sponsors of the program also participated in these events to launch the statewide effort. The program is coordinated by Clean Fuels Ohio (www.CleanFuelsOhio.org), an environmental non-profit based in Columbus, Ohio that focuses on reducing air pollution through the “greening” of the transportation industry. Additional information on the Ohio Green Fleets Program can be found at: <http://www.ohiogreenfleets.org/>.

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AWARDS HIGHLIGHT ENVIRONMENTALLY-FOCUSED WEEK

The Indiana Department of Environment (IDEM) is dedicated to protecting Hoosiers and the environment, and this mandate was reinforced as Governor Mitch Daniels signed a proclamation dedicating September 15 to 21, 2008 as Pollution Prevention Week. To actively promote pollution prevention, IDEM supports best management practices used by industry leaders in industrial processes which allow conservation of power and materials through more efficient processes.

As part of the week’s focus on strong environmental practices, industries were presented crystal trophies for achievements in pollution prevention during the Governor’s Awards for Environmental Excellence. Awards were presented in three categories: Five-year Continuous Improvement award - Frito Lay, Inc., Frankfurt and Rieke Packaging Systems, Auburn; Energy/Renewable Resources award - General Motors Powertrain, Bedford, and Rieth Village, Wolf Lake; Pollution Prevention award - City of Carmel Utilities, Carmel; Eli Lilly and Company, Indianapolis; Jeffboat, LLC, Jeffersonville; Monaco Coach, Wakarusa; and Toyota Motor Manufacturing Indiana, Princeton.

The Governor’s Awards for Environmental Excellence are open to all Indiana facilities, government agencies, individuals, and other groups that implement exemplary environmental projects with measurable results. The awards recognize Indiana’s leaders who have implemented outstanding environmental strategies into their operations and decision-making processes. By seeking out and utilizing innovative environmental practices, these facilities and programs have reduced waste, saved money, and contributed greatly to Indiana’s environmental protection efforts, benefiting the health and welfare of the state’s communities and the state as a whole.

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INDIANA’S NEWEST CLEAN COMMUNITIES

Tell City and Fishers residents have another reason to be proud of their community as their municipal government has achieved “CLEAN” status and is embarking on a new, positive environmental initiative through the Indiana Department of Environmental Management’s (IDEM’s) CLEAN Community Challenge.

The CLEAN (Comprehensive Local Environmental Action Network) Community Challenge is a voluntary

recognition program for local Indiana governments that make significant commitments to environmental management. CLEAN helps communities take steps to plan, develop, and implement a Quality of Life Plan, which focuses on reducing the potential environmental impacts associated with municipal operations. Tell City and Fishers garnered the designation after having committed to accomplishing several environmental goals.

- Tell City has committed to reducing the fuel consumption of its street department vehicles, developing greenways, bike paths and walkways, reducing electricity use in city buildings, reducing litter on city streets, and increasing recycling efforts.
- Fishers has committed to reducing energy consumption of town buildings, increasing the amount of recyclables collected from town departments, increasing the number of planting projects that incorporate native plants and trees, increasing the number of ordinances and incentives that encourage “green” design, and reducing the consumption of non-environmentally friendly products.

IDEM administers the Indiana CLEAN Community Challenge in partnership with the Indiana Department of Natural Resources, the Indiana Department of Transportation, the Indiana Finance Authority, and the Indiana State Revolving Fund. Partner agencies provide financial incentives to Indiana CLEAN Community members, such as better terms and improved chances for state grant and loan dollars. Nine Indiana communities have received the Indiana CLEAN Community designation from IDEM. To learn more, visit www.cleancommunities.IN.gov.

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FIVE IN COMPANIES INDUCTED INTO IDEM ESP

After agreeing to implement continuous environmental improvements and demonstrating long-term compliance with environmental laws, five new members have been accepted into the Indiana Department of Environmental Management’s (IDEM’s) Environmental Stewardship Program (ESP).

ESP’s newest members include:

- ***Da-Lite Screen Company, Inc.***, Warsaw, Kosciusko County
During their first year of membership Da-Lite has agreed to switch its paint operations to powder-coating and electrostatic spraying. Efforts will result in 69,600 pound reduction of VOC emissions by the end of 2008.
- ***Caterpillar Reman Powertrain Indiana***, Franklin, Johnson County
Caterpillar, Inc. has agreed to reduce its non-hazardous waste generation by 35,425 gallons in their first year of membership by purchasing a machine to reclaim used oil.
- ***Hendrickson Trailer Suspension Systems***, Lebanon, Boone County
A division of the Boler Company, Hendrickson has agreed to reduce its solid waste by 96,346 pounds by the end of 2008 through implementing a recycling program for plastic, metal, and wood.
- ***Carrier Corporation***, Indianapolis, Marion County
A division of United Technologies, Carrier Corporation will reduce its electricity consumption by 5,478,456 kilowatt hours by the end of 2009 through a lighting retrofit project.
- ***Madison Chemical Co., Inc*** Madison, Jefferson County
Madison Chemical Co., Inc has committed to reducing 17,800 pounds of phosphates sold in its products by the end of 2009 through formulation of non-phosphate containing products for customers.

To become an ESP member, a business must maintain an exemplary compliance record, certify that they have adopted and implemented an approved environmental management system, and commit to specific measures for continued improvement in their environmental performance. As a result of maintaining an exemplary compliance record and continually improving their environmental performance, ESP members qualify for expedited permit review, flexibility in permitting, reduced reporting frequencies, and coordination of compliance inspections. To maintain ESP membership, companies must report on their environmental initiatives every year and reapply for ESP membership every three years.

This is the third year of the ESP program and there are 38 members participating in this initiative. For details about the program, visit IDEM's Web site at <http://www.idem.IN.gov/prevention/esp>.

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IDEM OFFERS POLLUTION PREVENTION GRANTS

The Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) is pleased to announce the 2009 Indiana Pollution Prevention (P2) Grant Program. The P2 Grant Program encourages Indiana organizations to implement pollution prevention projects in facilities and communities.

The purpose of the Indiana P2 Grant Program is to increase pollution prevention and natural resource conservation through measurable results. Any organization located in Indiana is eligible to apply for P2 grants regardless of type, size, or complexity. Examples of organizations include Indiana manufacturers, schools, not-for-profits, and communities.

Examples of eligible P2 grant requests include material substitution, product reformulation, process changes, or in-process recycling of wastes. In 2009, the Indiana P2 Grant Program will focus on projects that reduce or replace toxic substances that affect air, water, and/or land. Projects that reduce or replace any chemical listed on the Toxics Release Inventory will receive a higher score when evaluated for funding.

Pre-applications will be due on January 16, 2009. For more information, visit our Web site at www.in.gov/idem/5224.htm, or contact the P2 Grants Manager at 1-800-988-7901.

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FINE PRINT

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